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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Before The Honorable Maxine M. Chesney, Judge

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
VS.	)	NO. CR 18-00465 MMC
	)	
UNITED MICROELECTRONICS	)	
CORPORATION, INC., et al.,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

San Francisco, California  
Monday, July 25, 2022

**TRANSCRIPT OF REMOTE VIDEOCONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**

**APPEARANCES:** (Via Zoom videoconference.)

For Plaintiff:

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**(APPEARANCES CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)**

REPORTED BY: Ruth Levine Ekhaus, RMR, RDR, FCRR  
CSR No. 12219, Official U.S. Reporter

1 **APPEARANCES:** (CONTINUED)2 For Defendant Fujian Jinhua  
3 Integrated Circuit:4 SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER  
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1 Monday - July 25, 2022

10:05 a.m.

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 ---oo---

4 THE CLERK: Calling Criminal Case Number 18-465,  
5 United States of America versus Fujian Jinhua Integrated  
6 Circuit.

7 Will counsel please state your appearances for the record,  
8 starting with Government counsel.

9 THE COURT: You're muted, Ms. Vartain.

10 MS. VARTAIN: Good morning, Your Honor. Laura  
11 Vartain, Nic Hunter, Steve Marzen, and Nick Walsh for the  
12 United States.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. DiCANIO: Good morning, Your Honor. Jack DiCanio,  
15 Matt Sloan, and Emily Reitmeier for Jinhua.

16 THE COURT: All right. Good morning.

17 I don't know how much good I'm going to be after my  
18 European travels, and returning to succumb to COVID immediately  
19 upon my return, no matter how careful I was in the process. So  
20 it's been a few days now and, hopefully, I'm on the mend.

21 Anyway, it doesn't look like anything's happened in my  
22 absence, except to have the actual letter filed that was  
23 described by Mr. DiCanio at the last calling of the case.

24 I was expecting, perhaps, a somewhat modified or maybe  
25 just edited a bit submission of the proposed letters rogatory

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1 by the defendant. I didn't get anything. But in the interim,  
2 having now received the actual response from the People's  
3 Republic of China, it isn't so much a concern about my saying  
4 if, I do issue the letter, that I was told this. Now we have  
5 it, or so such is being reported to me.

6 But -- so why are we having the conference? Okay.

7 **MR. DiCANIO:** Your Honor, I think we did submit,  
8 probably shortly before the hearing, a revised letter rogatory.

9 **THE COURT:** This hearing?

10 **MR. DiCANIO:** Yes, Your Honor.

11 **THE COURT:** Well, I've --

12 **MR. DiCANIO:** I think about a half hour ago.

13 **THE COURT:** Well, I've spent about the better part of  
14 the time I've been here this morning reading all kinds of  
15 different things.

16 Oh. No. I mean, I have what was filed before I left, but  
17 I don't have -- is this supposed to be -- I thought we -- well,  
18 maybe this was all that was being discussed about being  
19 revised; in other words, nothing since this one.

20 **MR. DiCANIO:** Correct, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** Oh, okay.

22 **MR. DiCANIO:** And I know that in the one that we filed  
23 just this morning, I believe -- and Ms. Vartain could correct  
24 me -- I believe we sent it over to the Government, and they had  
25 no further comments on language. And I think that's the one

1 that we filed, probably, about 45 minutes ago or so.

2 THE COURT: Okay. I don't have it.

3 I mean, I have the one from July 1. I do not have the  
4 more recent one. Okay. So I wasn't wrong that you were going  
5 to try to clean it up and maybe take a look at it, but -- okay.

6 Somebody is now, at my request, going to go try and find  
7 that.

8 So maybe I'll confirm with Ms. Vartain, since she's seen  
9 it and I have not, whether there was anything that jumped out  
10 at you regarding its content.

11 MS. VARTAIN: Your Honor, the reason the Court hasn't  
12 seen it is that I think it was filed while I've been on this  
13 conference. So I saw it pop up while I was on Zoom.

14 And it does reflect the Government's revisions. And so  
15 the Government does oppose the Court filing -- sending the  
16 second letters rogatory; but if the Court is going to send the  
17 second letters rogatory regarding live testimony, we concur  
18 with the language in what Jinhua just filed.

19 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So in other words, if I  
20 overrule the objection, then this is as good language as we can  
21 come up with at the moment.

22 All right. So I'll take a look at it, as long as somebody  
23 can go find it for me in the. . .

24 MR. DiCANIO: Your Honor, can I raise one issue on the  
25 letter rogatory?

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1       And I apologize to both you and the Government on this.

2       When I was reading it before the hearing, I notice that we  
3       forgot to put a reference in about the safe passage agreement  
4       that the Government had given us before the trial started. And  
5       as I read the Ministry of Justice letters, there is some  
6       reference to that. And so I'd like to propose some language to  
7       Ms. Vartain that I think she'll be comfortable with. It just  
8       tracks the letter. And then maybe we can resubmit the letter  
9       to you in an hour or so.

10       **THE COURT:** Okay. Right now, I'm just waiting for  
11       somebody to try and find whatever the current one is.

12       Do you have someplace that you would want to insert that?

13       **MR. DiCANIO:** Maybe I can turn it over to  
14       Ms. Reitmeier, who probably has the letter handy.

15       **THE COURT:** Okay. So, Ms. Reitmeier, if you can see  
16       if there's someplace where, in the letter, it might fit in to  
17       add language about safe passage.

18       And is this language we used before in earlier -- no,  
19       because we never had one on live testimony.

20       **MR. DiCANIO:** Correct, that's the reason.

21       And, Your Honor, I apologize. We missed it and it just  
22       dawned on me as I was looking at the papers this morning.

23       **THE COURT:** Are you saying that the Chinese government  
24       had a concern about safe passage?

25       **MR. DiCANIO:** They did not raise it, but if you look

1 at their letters, they talked about making sure there were  
2 conditions that would assure the safety of the witnesses'  
3 travel, which I think is covered by the language that the  
4 Government has already agreed to.

5 I just want to make sure that we don't get in a situation  
6 where we send a letter, then they ask a clarifying question,  
7 and we lose time.

8 **THE COURT:** Safety -- I don't know if that's what they  
9 meant.

10 What did you think they meant before you thought about  
11 this, you know, safe passage idea?

12 **MR. DiCANIO:** Yeah. So as I read their letters,  
13 they're talking about these witnesses not getting arrested if  
14 they were to come to the United States --

15 **THE COURT:** Oh.

16 **MR. DiCANIO:** -- that they'd be able to travel,  
17 testify, and go home, and not be arrested for any pre-travel  
18 offenses.

19 Now, if they commit something in the United States, that's  
20 carved out, which, I think, is consistent with the safe passage  
21 letter that the Government had given us before the trial.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. Now, you understood they were  
23 asking about that before, but you have something in the current  
24 letter or nothing in the current letter regarding --

25 **MR. DiCANIO:** I realize we don't, Your Honor. So we

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1 just want to add a sentence or two.

2 THE COURT: Okay. You have nothing?

3 MR. DiCANIO: Correct.

4 THE COURT: It's not like you're sort of embellishing.

5 MR. DiCANIO: Correct.

6 THE COURT: Ms. Reitmeier, did you come up with  
7 anyplace you want to plug this in?

8 MS. REITMEIER: I did, Your Honor.

9 In the letter, there is several kind of embedded tables.  
10 There is one embedded table where it just lists the witness's  
11 name, address, gender, and occupation.

12 THE COURT: All right. That's on page 6 --

13 MS. REITMEIER: Six.

14 THE COURT: -- to 7, I guess. Yeah.

15 MS. REITMEIER: I think we can put it right before  
16 that table, possibly.

17 THE COURT: Do you have any proposal in mind at the  
18 moment?

19 MS. REITMEIER: We do, Your Honor. We're running it  
20 by our client to make sure they're okay with it, and then we'd  
21 like to run it by Ms. Vartain as well.

22 It mostly, I think, will track the language of the -- the  
23 safe passage letter.

24 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

25 It's probably a good idea to cover that, which is a means

1 of reassurance to the Chinese government that their citizens  
2 aren't going to be put in jail over something.

3 Okay. I haven't had a chance to go over the most recent  
4 revision, but if everyone is happy with it, in all likelihood,  
5 I'm going to use it. Of course there will have to be a new  
6 submission with the extra language, once you're all on board  
7 with whatever the best way is to phrase that.

8 Okay. So let's assume that you did manage to get some  
9 work done on this, then, and that I -- once I get whatever the  
10 next form is that, hopefully, there's some consensus about its  
11 language.

12 I once I have it, I can get it out pretty quickly.

13 And, Ms. Geiger, you're going to be here in the federal  
14 building today; right?

15 So if we can do this today, then she's here because she  
16 won't be back here after that for a while. So that would be  
17 helpful -- in my absence, not only that, you know, a TRO came  
18 in with some harbormaster in Sausalito is trying to destroy  
19 somebody's boat that's docked out in the middle; and according  
20 to the harbormaster constitutes debris and doesn't belong  
21 there. So, anyway, we'll see what we do with that.

22 Anyhow, so what else can we do, if anything, on your case  
23 before we just take a break. We can set another status  
24 conference if necessary; just because at some point, hopefully,  
25 something will happen. And then if it doesn't happen by then

1 you can just, you know, have a brief stipulation to move the  
2 date.

3 **MR. DiCANIO:** Sure, Your Honor. Can I maybe suggest  
4 two weeks?

5 **THE COURT:** Yeah, whatever sounds good to you.

6 And then, Ms. Vartain, how does that strike the  
7 Government? That's with the idea you're going to kind of agree  
8 with whatever this additur is and then I -- and then I actually  
9 get this thing rolling today.

10 **MS. VARTAIN:** Your Honor, our date to resume trial  
11 testimony is August 22nd, so I would propose sufficiently in  
12 advance of that maybe Wednesday, August 10th.

13 **THE COURT:** That's okay. I mean, my feeling is the  
14 chances of getting this all really wrapped up by August 22, is  
15 not looking so great now that we got this communication from,  
16 you know, the PRC, but -- whatever we have to do in response to  
17 it.

18 But, sure; if everybody is available. Let me take a look.

19 That's a Wednesday; is that right, August 10? What, at  
20 10:00?

21 **MR. DiCANIO:** It's fine with us, Your Honor.

22 I could tell you that if we, probably, waited a week  
23 after, we would have a little bit more information I would  
24 think. But happy to do it on the 10th as well.

25 **THE COURT:** Well, we can say the 10th and -- look, if

1 we haven't heard anything back from the PRC by the 10th -- I  
2 mean, these people still have to -- if they're going to be here  
3 on the 22nd, they would have to have made arrangements. I  
4 don't know. They may have to make them in advance with some,  
5 hopefully, you know, cancelable or at least movable  
6 arrangements.

7 I mean, I just have to assume they're going to let them  
8 come, but -- okay. In the meantime, we can say --

9 **MR. DiCANIO:** Your Honor, I think our biggest  
10 challenge -- Your Honor, obviously, our biggest challenge is  
11 getting the letter to them.

12 I agree with you. I have a very strong feeling, like,  
13 these -- both of these things are going to be approved. The  
14 challenge is just the speed at which we get it to them so they  
15 can process it.

16 **THE COURT:** Let's do the 10th. Now, if it turns out  
17 nothing has happened -- and I'm hoping you and Ms. Vartain and  
18 anybody else on your mutual teams can -- you know, respective  
19 teams, rather -- would work out whatever has happened to that  
20 point. And then, once you know what each other's position is,  
21 if it doesn't look like we ought to do anything on the 10th,  
22 then you could actually just maybe ask Ms. Geiger if we could  
23 push it back a week, and that would probably be fine.

24 You know, I can't -- I don't know if some odd thing  
25 happened between now and then as far as my calendar goes, but

1 assuming it doesn't.

2 So in the meantime, we'll say the matter will stand over  
3 to August 10, at 10:00 for further status.

4 **MS. VARTAIN:** Your Honor, does the Court have another  
5 time? I have a conflicting court appearance at 10:00 a.m. I  
6 could probably do 11:00 or later.

7 **THE COURT:** 11:00, if that's okay with everybody else.

8 **MS. VARTAIN:** Thank you.

9 **MR. DiCANIO:** Fine with the Defense, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** Okay. So we'll say 11:00. All right.

11 **MR. DiCANIO:** Thank you, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Thanks everyone.

13 **MR. DiCANIO:** Feel better.

14 **THE COURT:** Thank you. I hope I do. Okay. Bye.

15 **THE CLERK:** Court is in recess.

16 (Proceedings adjourned at 10:19 a.m.)

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## **CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER**

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

DATE: Monday, July 25, 2022

Ruth Levine Ekhaus, RMR, RDR, FCRR, CSR No. 12219  
Official Reporter, U.S. District Court

Ruth Lauer 